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lege conferred on him the degree of Master of Arts, and in their vote, they direct it to be expressly mentioned in his diploma [that it was given] ‘*pro meritis suis, although he never had a public education.*’ In his diploma it is thus expressed, ‘*licet non Academiæ instructum, generosum, nihilominus in rebus literariis scil. classicis, philosophicis, etc. egregie eruditum.*’

Of the famous Robert Metlin, or Macklin, as he is called by Belknap, who lived to the extraordinary age of one hundred and fifteen years, we find the following anecdote under the year 1787, at which time he was a baker in Portsmouth. ‘He usually bought his flour in Boston, and always travelled thither on foot; he performed the journey in a day, the distance being then about sixtysix miles, made his purchases, put his flour on board a coaster, and returned home the next day. He was eighty years of age, the last time he performed this journey. At that time, this was thought an extraordinary day’s journey for a horse. The stages required the greatest part of two days. Colonel Atkinson, with a strong horse in a very light sulky, once accomplished it in a day. He set out early in the morning, and before he reached Greenland, overtook Metlin, and inquired where he was bound. Metlin answered, to Boston. Atkinson asked if he ever expected to reach there; and drove on. Atkinson stopped at Greenland, and Metlin passed him; they alternately passed each other every stage on the road, and crossed Charlestown ferry in the same boat, before sunset.’

We have no room for any further extracts, except the following, which is valuable as a statistical document, and shows how little the price of corn and silver has varied in nearly a century and a half.

‘1680. Taxes were commonly paid in lumber or provisions at stated prices, and whoever paid them in money was abated one third part. The prices for this year were as follows;

Merchantable white pine boards	£ 0 30 0	per m.
White oak pipe staves - - - -	3 0 0	” ”
Red oak do. - - - -	0 30 0	” ”
Red oak hhd. staves - - - -	0 25 0	” ”
Indian corn - - - -	0 3 0	” bush.
Wheat - - - -	0 5 0	” ”
Malt - - - -	0 4 0	” ”
Silver - - - -	0 6 8	” oz.’

4.—*A History of the United States, from their first Settlement as Colonies, to the close of the War with Great Britain, in 1815.* New York. C. Wiley. 12mo. pp. 336.

THE highest literary enterprise, which now presents itself for the exercise of industry, talent, and learning in this country, is a his-

tory of the United States. It has been the fashion to doubt, whether the time had yet come, in which an impartial and well digested history could be executed. Such doubts we think should continue no longer. Time is required to bring facts to light, to soften down the rough aspect of events, and to create a medium through which the mind can look back with cool and tranquil judgment, divested of passion and unbiassed by partiality. For all these purposes time enough we conceive has elapsed ; and all the essential materials may now be obtained, and all the advantages possessed, which ever can be, for a history of the first order down to a period, at least as late as the beginning of the present century. The person now living, who would undertake so arduous a work, can hardly be supposed to have his opinions, or his feelings, so much interested in the causes and results of the great political parties, which ran high thirty years ago, as to be subject to any undue influence on his judgment from either of these sources. And when you go back to the revolution, everything is fully ripe for the most finished history ; and previously to that period we have all the valuable materials, which can be supposed to exist, even to the earliest twilight of our antiquity.

A thoroughly philosophical history is wanted, a history of man, his mind, opinions, social habitudes, and political devices, when thrown into states of society, unknown in former ages, and in the old countries. The events of American history are peculiar. Beginning with the origin of our colonial existence, and descending through all the gradations of our political progress, till the miracle of our present national government was accomplished, we behold a series of remarkable events, and a developement of the human character, for which we look in vain to the acts of any other people, whether recorded in ancient or modern story. The character of our ancestors was peculiar, they came here for peculiar motives, they formed associations on novel principles, and maintained them in a manner, and with a spirit, which no other people have done. The colonial history is full of interest, full of singularity ; the part acted by the natives of the soil is an extraordinary scene in the drama. The movements, which led onward to the revolution, the events of that great crisis itself, and the consequences flowing from it, are all among the most dignified and fertile themes of history.

But it would be no easy task, with adequate powers and untiring industry, to compose such a history, as the past progress and present state of the country demand. A thorough acquaintance would be requisite, not only with English history, but with the general history of Europe at the time of the discovery of America and since. To trace the advancement of our political institutions, a complete knowledge of the republics of antiquity, and of succeeding ages, would be necessary, as well as a just estimate of the

characteristics and the influence of the principles of freedom, wherever they have made any impression. Then the mass of facts relating to our own country, of which the texture of the history is to be woven, is immense, and scattered over a wide and unexplored field. The works and documents, in which they are contained, have never been brought together or methodised; no individual has pushed his researches through them, nor even been so adventurous as to attempt a summary of their prominent parts. Till very recently such an undertaking would hardly have been in the power of any one. The works on American history could not be found within a practicable compass. This obstacle is at length happily removed. Since the famous Ebeling Library has been purchased and transferred to Harvard College, by the munificence of Mr Thorndike, and the Warden Library has been added, also as a donation, by Mr Eliot, it is believed that copies of nearly all the works, illustrating the history of North America, may now be found in the library of the College. If to these we add other books of this description in the Boston Athenæum, and the library of the Massachusetts Historical Society, both of which are particularly rich in the treasures of American history, it is probable that no book of much value will be wanting, to complete a perfect list on this subject. Whoever would write a history of the United States, that will do honor to the country, as an able developement of its progress and resources, and delineation of its remarkable features, and as occupying an elevated niche in the temple of its literature, must necessarily have constant access to these collections. Let no man contemplate such a project, whose meridian years have been long numbered, nor flatter himself when he begins, that his declining sun will find him at the end of his wearisome task.

The little volume, whose title has called forth these remarks, comes upon us with no high pretensions; it is a simple narrative of facts, put together in a plain way, and intended for schools. For such a purpose it seems well suited, although it is a difficult thing to compress so much matter into so small a space, with a due attention to a just proportion of parts. The author's plan is, first to give a separate history of each of the old colonies; then in succession an account of the French war from 1756 to 1763; of the revolution, which secured our independence; the transactions of the old congress and the adoption of the constitution; the administrations of the different Presidents; and a detailed narrative of the events of the last war. All these things are accomplished in a duodecimo volume of three hundred and thirtysix pages. The mechanical divisions of the chapters are conveniently arranged, for the use of reading classes in schools. In short, as an epitome of the history of the United States, designed for young readers, we know not that a better work than this has appeared.

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